

Application No. 09/454,770
Reply to Office Action of December 6, 2005

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Docket No.: 02849/000G277-US0

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for delivering a parcel by a carrier to a secure receptacle at a location of an intended recipient, comprising the steps of:

- (a) dispatching the carrier with the parcel to the location of the intended recipient in accordance with delivery instructions on associated with the parcel, the location corresponding to the address of the intended recipient on delivery instructions provided by a sender;
- (b) the carrier accessing the secure receptacle at the location;
- (c) the carrier placing the parcel within the accessed secure receptacle;
- (d) the carrier securing the secure receptacle after placing the parcel within the secure receptacle;
- (e) the carrier making further deliveries at additional locations after having placed the parcel within the secure receptacle; and
- (f) using a scanner positioned within the secure receptacle, automatically registering the placement of the parcel within the secure receptacle after the securing step by communicating placement data comprising at least a portion of the delivery instructions on the parcel concerning the placement of the parcel within the secure receptacle over a communication link.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, including the additional steps of:

- reading a code on the parcel in response to the securing step; and
- storing the code in a memory.

3. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, the registering step including the additional steps of:

- accessing a remote location by the communication link; and
- conveying the placement data to the remote location;
- wherein the registering step is in response to the securing step.

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4. (Original) The method as in claim 1, wherein the secure receptacle has a locked state and an unlocked state, and wherein the accessing step includes the additional step of:

moving from the locked state to the unlocked state in a response to an authorized identifier.

5. (Original) The method as in claim 4, wherein the authorized identifier is received from at least one of: a magnetic strip card, a key pad, and a smart card.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, wherein the secure receptacle has a locked state and an unlocked state, and wherein the securing step includes the additional step of:

moving from the unlocked state to the locked state after receiving the parcel.

7. (Original) The method as in claim 1, including the additional step of generating a log entry in response to the accessing step.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, including the additional step of generating a log entry in response to the securing step.

9. (Original) The method as in claim 1, including the additional step of generating a log entry in response to the registering step.

10. (Original) The method as in claim 1, where in the placing step is performed at night.

Claims 11-39 (Canceled)

40. (New) The method as in claim 1, wherein the step of automatically registering the placement of the parcel within the secure receptacle comprises the step of scanning a label on the parcel to obtain the placement data in response to securing the receptacle.

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